

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 28, Summer 2010

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

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ISKCON hypocrisy special

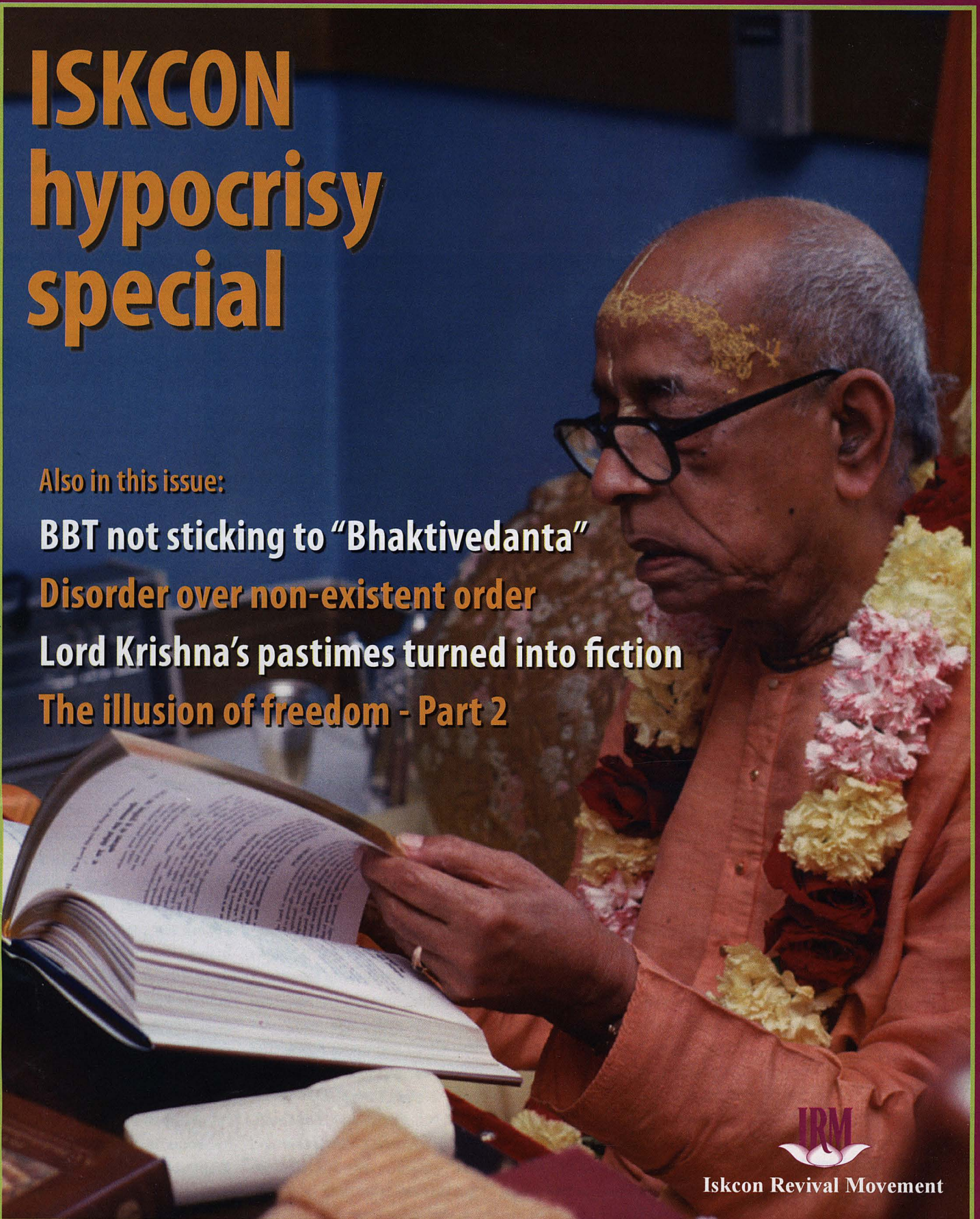
Also in this issue:

BBT not sticking to "Bhaktivedanta"

Disorder over non-existent order

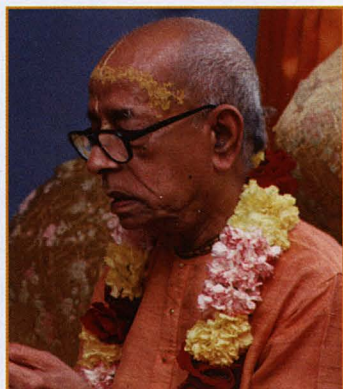
Lord Krishna's pastimes turned into fiction

The illusion of freedom - Part 2



Iskcon Revival Movement

GBC member endorses IRM mission



BACK TO PRABHUPADA

Published quarterly

Founded under the inspiration of
**His Divine Grace A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada**, Founder-Acarya,
International Society for Krishna
Consciousness (ISKCON)

Editor: Krishnakant

Changing address? Don't miss out on your free subscription to *BTP*! Contact us as below.

For more information, and letters to the editor, please write to:

Back to Prabhupada
PO Box 1056, BUSHEY
GREAT BRITAIN, WD23 3XH

or email:

irm@iskconirm.com

website:

www.iskconirm.com

Contents	Page
Letters to the editor	3
BBT not meant for publishing fiction	5
Krishna turned into fiction	6
Coming to Prabhupada:	
The unexpected awakening by Bhakta Anthony Amanfor	8
Books more important than temples	10
Readers' questions and challenges	11
The GBC's hypocrisy - Part 1	12
Quotes, Notes and News	13
Disorder over the non-existent order	14
The illusion of freedom - 2	15
The GBC's hypocrisy - Part 2	16

Welcome to Issue 28 of *Back to Prabhupada (BTP)*.

Kali-yuga, the era in which we live, is characterised as being full of hypocrisy:

"This is the age, Kali. It is called Kali. Hypocrisy, simply hypocrisy. Kali means full of hypocrisy."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 26/11/1966)

So prevalent is such hypocrisy, that in *Kali-yuga* hypocrisy is actually seen as the currency by which one should live. Rather than being an aberration, it is considered the principle by which one should operate. Hence, without batting an eyelid and without any shame, hypocrisy will be put forward as perfectly normal behaviour. A startlingly striking example of this was given recently by co-GBC Secretary for ISKCON Mayapur and GBC Secretary for the UK and Ireland, Praghosa Das ("PD"), on the GBC-funded website "Dandavats". There PD responds to criticism against a GBC paper which rebuts the assertions of His Holiness Narayana Maharaja ("NM"), who as our readers may know, competes with the GBC's own voted-in gurus for ISKCON members to be initiated by him.

PD states:

1) That responding to NM can in no way be considered "offensive", because the GBC paper merely sets "the historical record straight", due to NM's "continual misrepresentation of Srila Prabhupada's instructions".

2) That levelling the charge of "*aparadha*" against the GBC because NM is "senior" is an "unjust dynamic", because NM is "free to make any presentation, no matter how questionable", whilst the GBC are not allowed to respond without being accused of being offensive.

3) That this "unjust dynamic" ensures "that while Narayan Maharaja should be given the natural respect due to a Vaisnava,

ISKCON devotees can be disregarded and maligned".

4) That it appears that "the fear of Vaisnava *aparadha* is being employed as a mechanism to blur the facts."

5) That when NM repeatedly "misrepresents Srila Prabhupada's key instructions and intents", ISKCON leaders are "duty-bound to stand up and set the record straight", even if there is "the risk of some offense", because "there was the certainty of an even greater offense if they had not done so".

The above are all reasonable and logical points. But they carry just the same weight when applied to the IRM "setting the historical record straight" in relation to the GBC's "continual misrepresentation of Srila Prabhupada's instructions"! To not accept this would simply be hypocrisy of the highest order. Hence, what is actually an "unjust dynamic" is the GBC complaining about the use of "*Vaisnava aparadha*" being used to silence their rebutting NM, when the same tactics are used against the IRM to silence our rebutting the GBC! We are routinely told that because ISKCON leaders are "senior Vaisnavas", we cannot criticise what they say or do, otherwise it would constitute "*Vaisnava aparadha*" or being offensive.

A GBC member has accepted that it is not "offensive" to point out the truth, no matter how "senior" the person being corrected appears to be. Thus above, we have in the words of a GBC official himself, many justifications for the IRM's mission to correct the GBC's continual misrepresentation of Srila Prabhupada's instructions, and the old canard of "*Vaisnava aparadha*" can not be used to silence the IRM.

To quote the words of another prominent ISKCON leader and GBC emeritus, HH Hridyananda Das Goswami:

"We need the same rules [...] 'What's good for the goose is good for the gander'"

(ISKCON Communications Journal, Vol 3, Issue 1).

We expect, therefore, to never again hear the complaint of "*Vaisnava aparadha*" against the IRM for pointing out the GBC's errors. Rather, we expect to be judged on the facts, just as the GBC are appealing for their rebuttal to be evaluated.

Thus, with the same arguments regarding "being offensive" being considered fair when used against the IRM by the GBC, but unfair if used against the GBC by others, things are being turned upside down, or topsy-turvy. And, lo and behold, this is exactly what the hypocrisy of *Kali-yuga* is known as:

"Therefore, by the influence of the age of Kali, everywhere, politically, socially or religiously, everything is topsy-turvy, and therefore for the sane man it is all regrettable."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 1:16:22 purport)

As the quote above illustrates, such "topsy-turvy" behaviour applies to the religious sphere as well, and unfortunately it is today epitomised by those who are officially supposed to be Srila Prabhupada's representatives.

On the pages of this issue we give many more examples of how hypocrisy is the standard for behaviour for the acting GBC and its supporters. Page 12 analyses the above-mentioned GBC paper against NM, and other examples of hypocrisy can be found on pages 13, 15 and the back page, proving that Kali operates right at the heart of the current GBC.

Please feel free to write to me at the following address:
irm@iskconirm.com.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.
Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant



Letters to the editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to a continued overwhelming response, the publication of letters has been running approximately 9 months behind for quite some time now. We tried previously to run an extra page of letters to clear the backlog, but this was to no avail since as the number of our subscribers continues to increase, so do the letters! We humbly beg your patience.

“A careful reading of BTP has revealed to me that there is veracity in what you write. It is astonishing how ISKCON could afford to ignore your well thought out and logical findings. Kindly keep up the spirit.”

- Professor Prafulla C. Mishra, Head of English Department, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Arunachal Pradesh, India

“Please send me all back issues of BTP. I'd like to have my arsenal ready against these bogus gurus.”

- Alexandria Diaz, New York, USA

“All of those who try to lead ISKCON back to how Srila Prabhupada established and wanted it to function I wish the best and thank you so much. You are very great and brave to fight against these pretentious court-jesters. Lord Nrsinghadeva surely will look after and guard all of you.”

- Imre Horvath, Munich, Germany

“I totally agree too that Srila Prabhupada is ISKCON's true initiating Guru. It just makes too much sense. It makes me sad that ISKCON went into such disorder, and I think that if they had followed the order correctly, ISKCON would not be in such trouble. I think too that if Srila Prabhupada had been recognized as the true initiating Guru that it would have kept alive the spirit of devotional service to a much greater extent.

Thank you for sending me a free copy of the book. I also got one copy of your magazine this last summer, and I enjoyed it, too.”

- James Boling, Texas, USA

“I really appreciate your effort to share with us information about Srila Prabhupada.”

- Evans Mpelo, Limpopo, South Africa

“This type of book increases spiritual knowledge in people. It will reduce their impurities.”

- H. Balakrishna, Bangalore, India

“Hare Krishna. I see that you are

working hard for Srila Prabhupada, our guru, and due to this a lot of improvement is there in ISKCON lately – less worship of their gurus. I see that Srila Prabhupada is coming back very soon, that is what we all want, that Srila Prabhupada is again the official guru of the Hare Krishna movement. We must do whatever will make Srila Prabhupada happy.”

- Merumala Dasi, Florida, USA

“Thank you so much for your work. I am so happy I have found like-minded devotees.”

- David Savage, Bedfordshire, England

“Once I got a BTP and I read it, it was so nice, I want to subscribe to this beautiful magazine.”

- Upasana Brahmachari, Sridham Mayapur, India

“You are all doing great service to Prabhupada! HARIBOL (can you also send in Tamil please!)”

- Sreenath Selvarajoo, Selangor, Malaysia

“I would like to learn more about Srila Prabhupada, thank you. Hare Krishna.”

- Madan Mohan Das, Florida, USA

“This is very heartfelt issue and I wish we will be back to Prabhupada soon. Hare Krishna.”

- A.A.V Subrahmanyam, Bangalore, India

“Good work!”

Govindagopala Das, Hawaii, USA

“I really appreciate the effort you guys are doing by constantly sending me every single publication of BTP! Great service! Looking forward to getting back to the golden era of our beloved ISKCON. Hare Krishna, Srila Prabhupada ki jai!”

“Just wanted you to know that the latest BTP has arrived and is GREATLY appreciated! All glories to your service!”

- Bhuvana Pavani Devi Dasi, Nebraska, USA

“Dear IRM, Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

“Hari Bol! Good job keep it up!

Srila Prabhupada is our real guru who has enlightened our soul. Even if Srila Prabhupada has left his body he is among us. Personally even today I feel his presence. Hare Krishna!”

- Madhumaie Devi Dasi, Port Louis, Mauritius

As always great work and wonderful service, you are the real ISKCON prabhush.

Thank you very much. All glories to you all, best wishes to Krishnakant prabhu.

Your fallen servant”

- Kurma Das (not the chef), Victoria, Australia

“Hola! Hare Krishna! God bless you! And peace be with you! Keep up the good work! Good luck! Haribol!”

- Paul D. Medina Alston, San Juan, Puerto Rico

“I am getting the BTP issues regularly and am happy to read the contents.”

- N. Govindarajulu, Chennai, India

“I would like to follow your movement, the teachings are very pleasant. With thanks.”

- Vomprakash Emrith, Durban, South Africa

“With great interest I read your last magazine, BTP Issue 24. I would like to know more and serve Srila Prabhupada better!”

- Carolin Albrecht, Gera, Germany

“It is good to learn the real truth about ISKCON. Hare Krishna.”

- Mukesh Gelda, Ontario, Canada

“The magazine is very interesting and a beacon to confused neophytes to bring them ‘Back To Prabhupada’ to enable them to relish the true spirit of Krishna Consciousness and its goal.”

- Raju Y., Bangalore, India

“Thank you for all of the work you are doing in Prabhupada's name.”

- Mike D'Elia, New Mexico, USA

“You guys at IRM are doing ab-

solutely wonderful work, no doubt in the face of so many difficulties. I know for a fact that if I were to support you outwardly, I'd immediately be banned from the Manor. Nevertheless, I am becoming more and more fixed in my conviction that you are the only ones who are following Srila Prabhupada's instructions in truth, without any motivations of self-gain. I look forward to every issue of BTP, which I read over and over again with great eagerness. Excellent work. Keep it up. Rascaldom needs to be rooted out, and booted out, as there can be no place for it in Srila Prabhupada's movement. The sooner the IRM achieves its goal in restoring the real acarya of ISKCON to his rightful place, the better it is for the whole of mankind. There cannot be a more urgent mission. I find the subject matter extremely interesting, the more one reads, the more convinced he seems to become.”

- R. Shah, London, England

“Satyam eva jayate, truth always triumphs! Truth is the highest religion. The Supreme Lord is the truth Himself, which is the absolute truth. Hari Bol!! Jai Srila Prabhupada!!”

- Sri Jai Chaitanya Das, ISKCON Mysore, India

“The only way to go back home, back to Godhead is through Srila Prabhupada. He is the one and only guru who can deliver us from the material whirlpool.”

- Gurisha K, Mysore, India

“Hare Krishna Prabhus, I always look forward to the latest news and the hope of moving forward. Thank you for your kind and dedicated service.”

- Steve Harding, New South Wales, Australia

“The truth will set us free! Thank you so much.”

- Jay Jenkins, Arizona, USA

“Please keep up the good work. Thanks for the subscription!”

- Manish Ballav, Jharkand, India

“Dear Krishnakant Prabhu,

Letters to the editor *(continued from page 3)*

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. Just received issue 24 of BTP. I am not a pundit but it's easy to choose a side, either Srila Prabhupada's or someone other claiming themselves an acharya! I don't believe a single word from anyone who calls themselves a guru, it's a joke! On the other hand, I'm also totally convinced that Srila Prabhupada's side will conquer. Begging for the association with His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada's real servants."

- Sambhu Das, Emmaboda, Sweden

"Thanks for keeping me on your mailing list, am enjoying the magazines. Your Servant,"

- Joshua Sutter, South Carolina, USA

"We all must go back to Prabhupada and one day that will happen."

- Ghanasyama Das, Durban, South Africa

"I read BTP. This gives me a lot of knowledge regarding Hare Krishna Movement."

- Vishwanath Kedia, Juhu, Mumbai, India

"It is great to hear that people from all walks of life are supporting Srila Prabhupada, as he is the owner and it's great that it's translated into different languages. I will always support Srila Prabhupada."

- Pandit Krishnatraya, London, England

"I am now getting answers for questions I've been asking for 20 years."

- Prthu Das, Triolet, Mauritius

"I've enjoyed reading BTP so much. Could you please send me a copy of The Final Order? I appreciate it and keep up the good work. Especially with the 'rock n roll guru', LOL. Have a great day!"

- Casey Clarkson, Kansas, USA

"It is important to know the facts, especially for devotees aspiring for diksha."

- Rakesh Sharma, Delhi, India

"I am interested to find out about the bogus guru who misled the mission of Srila Prabhupada. This is an awareness and a great help to be informed. Thank you

very much. Haribol!"

- Alex T. Blance, Bacolod, Philippines

"Srila Prabhupada desired BTP magazine, and reading it made me very happy and I like it very much."

- Kumari Saipadama Mishra, Orissa, India

"All glories to Sri Radha and Krsna, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and our beloved A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada who saved us from the onslaught of Kali-yuga. I had the good fortune of reading a copy of Back to Prabhupada. I was very impressed - keep up the good work. Thank you for exposing the bogus gurus in the service of Srila Prabhupada. Haribol!"

- KM Bhagarette, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

"I read your book. And I agree with you. You are absolutely right. The real initiation happens within the heart. Or better said, the change of heart is the initiation. The ritual itself is just a necessary formality. We all joined the ISKCON movement because of Srila Prabhupada and not because of some GBC. This really proves who the real acarya is and who should give initiation."

My dear Krishnakant Prabhu, Krsna said to the demigods: 'My dear demigods, only by being peaceful and patient we can achieve our goal. Those overcome by anger will not be able to achieve it.'

They have already been overcome by anger. I saw how they attacked a ritvik devotee who was distributing magazines. So, just continue informing devotees as you have done till now and I will also do the same in my own modest way.

Your servant,"

- Dina-vatsala Das, Nis, Serbia

"I received issue 25, thank you. I love the website too. Lots of good information."

- Andrew Scott, Tucson, Arizona, USA

"You all are doing such fine service to Srila Prabhupada. You are pleasing Jagat-Guru Srila Gurudeva very much. You are a, if not THE, major player in preserving

His legacy. Hare Krsna.

3 or 5 local Vaisnavas read each issue of Back To Prabhupada which you mail to me. Please continue. You, Fine Sir, are broadcasting the Truth about the highjacking of The International Society for Krishna Consciousness, about the severe deviation from our Jagat-Guru's desire and purpose, and about the massacre of Srila Prabhupada's books. Your "column" on the inside cover of Back To Prabhupada magazine is always well written, clearly written, most reasonable, and actually irrefutable. I have read The Final Order 3 times. A definite "Best Seller.""

- Ramai Devi Dasi, West Virginia, USA

"You are doing something very important Shri Krishnakant ji. May Lord Krishna help you succeed in your mission of 'Back to Prabhupada'."

- Kasturi Sharma, Essex, England

"I appreciate this movement, but I'm very sad regarding the conflict between ISKCON temples. This is very, very unfortunate to hear about. With how much difficulty Srila Prabhupada nourishes this movement, and the devotees are only leading this movement to perish. That also because of some disobedient fallen gurus, who are claiming themselves as Guru next after Srila Prabhupada, after all preaching from the teachings of Srila Prabhupada. How irritating it is to hear it! Anyway, the tremendous work should be done to save the heritage of our real Spiritual Master."

- Ravinder Verma, Calicut, India

"Thank you very much for the awareness and update throughout the world. Jai Srila Prabhupada."

- Krishna Jagarnath, Durban, South Africa

"Thank you so much for all the information in your magazine. I do appreciate all the time and effort and the good work that is done."

May Lord Krishna and Mother Srimati Radharani bless, guide and support you in glorifying Srila

Prabhupada."

- Acyuta Das, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

"Srila Prabhupada is the real guru for devotees who like to know the truth for their life. Every man in the world would like to know about the greatness of Srila Prabhupada."

Dear Krishnakant, thanks for sending this issue for me. I am very happy after reading this issue. Jai Prabhupada."

- Pediredla Surya Venkatesh, Andhra Pradesh, India

"Hare Krishna, I have just finished reading Issue# 25, thank you for sending it. It was very revealing as well as an eye opener. I want to know more about it."

I am very glad that I came across the www.iskconirm.com website. I want to get The Final Order book to know more about what Prabhupada wanted after he left his physical body. Yesterday, in Issue# 25, I read that to learn from a Guru we only need to read Prabhupada's books and no other books. In November 2009 I went to Mayapur. There I was asked to buy 'Black Lotus' (biography of a deceased ISKCON guru - Ed.) but I did not buy it for some reason. I am glad I did not."

- Upendra Chaurasia, Bangalore, India

"Now I get Back to Prabhupada. Wonderful. I think this is the open house. I want to know more about Jayapataka Swami. Hare Krishna."

- Mrs. Jaya Sunuraj, Middlesex, England

"Hare Krishna Prabhu, I was once an ISKCON devotee but now I am not, and did not know where to go to continue my service. After reading the issues that prabhu sent me, I feel that I am not alone anymore. A million thanks for keeping my service alive since I love Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada."

- Jivananda Das, Klang, Malaysia

"I am new to Krishna Consciousness, but feel that Prabhupada's power is greater than the ISKCON associates I have met." Chris Chulak, Tucson, Arizona, USA

BBT not meant for publishing fiction

After founding the International Society for Krishna consciousness (ISKCON) in 1966, Srila Prabhupada established "ISKCON Press" for printing his books. Subsequently, to manage the operations of printing his books, including the activities of ISKCON Press, a trust was incorporated, called **The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT)**. We examine here what ISKCON Press and BBT were set up to print and publish, and further examine what the BBT today is actually printing.

ISKCON Press

"In the meantime, the press is ready. The press has already begun to print, and without having any book ready, they are printing other materials. But the press is specifically meant for printing my books."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, November 14th, 1969)

"The ISKCON Press was specifically established exclusively for printing my books."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, July 27th, 1970)

"ISKCON Press is simply meant for printing our books"

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, May 17th, 1971)

This is clear-cut: Srila Prabhupada set up ISKCON Press to only print his writings.

ISKCON Press and BBT

"So far my books are concerned, I am setting up a different body of management known as the BHAKTIVEDANTA BOOK TRUST. The trustees of this body are also members of the GBC, but their function is not dependent on the GBC. ISKCON Press was created for the exclusive publication of my books and literatures and should be continued in that way."

(Srila Prabhupada's Direction of Management, July 28th, 1970)

"The proceeds allocated to the Book Fund shall be used for the following purposes, all in the discretion of the Trustees, in whom I have complete confidence:

Printing and reprinting of books;

Directing and managing all publicity and distribution of my books;

Processing all copyrights and legal rights to my books;

Allocating funds as they see fit to ISKCON Press and directing the operation of the activities of ISKCON Press in the printing and reprinting of said books."

(BHAKTIVEDANTA BOOK TRUST AGREEMENT, BBT Agreement, May 29th, 1972, emphasis added. Full agreement can be accessed here:

<https://acrobat.m/#d=3jlesvC3qAASuDuAnciVg>)

Srila Prabhupada announces that a trust will be formed specifically for the purpose of managing the publishing of all books via ISKCON Press, which as we have already seen, was set up to only print Srila Prabhupada's books.

BBT – That is my will

"The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust account will be used to publish my books and literature and to establish Temples throughout the world"

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to BBT Trustees, July 29th, 1970)

"They shall combinedly collect the sales proceeds from each Center and utilize all funds for the printing of Srila Prabhupada's books and the construction of ISKCON Centers all over the world. Not a farthing is to be spent for any other purpose."

(Letter to all ISKCON Temple Presidents, Karandhara dasa Adhikari, April 22nd, 1972, APPROVED: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, Founder-Acarya of ISKCON)

"We are printing more books. This is my books. I have made a Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. That is my will, and I have given my will that fifty percent of the collection should be spent for reprinting the books and fifty percent should be spent for spreading the movement."

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, April 20th, 1976)

This states clearly that the printing activities of the trust pertain to the printing of Srila Prabhupada's books.

Non-authorised BBT printings

It is clear that the BBT was set up to only publish Srila Prabhupada's works. Additionally, Srila Prabhupada gave specific one-off authorisation for the BBT printing of a handful of other works which he approved. However, the BBT today routinely prints works which are neither by Srila Prabhupada, nor which received specific authorisation from him to be printed by the BBT. Some examples are cookbooks (e.g. *The Book of Eggfree Cakes, Vegetarian World Food*) and books on Indian culture (e.g. *The Hidden Glory of India*).

As well as the BBT not being authorised by Srila Prabhupada to print these works, they are not even in line with Srila Prabhupada's teachings:

"But we should not waste time encouraging vegetarianism as opposed to meat eating. We want to encourage prasadam taking and that is automatically vegetarian."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, January 9th, 1976)

The BBT now wishes to go even further in its non-authorised, non-Prabhupada publishing program. The trust set up specifically to publish Srila Prabhupada's transcendental words now wishes to publish fiction!

A new BBT project - call to authors

The BBT would like to showcase some of the best short story (fiction), creative nonfiction, and poetry writing in ISKCON. Devotees are invited to submit their work for consideration. The proposed book will be similar in size and binding to the Hidden Glory of India, published by the BBT.

(<http://news.iskcon.org>, March 25th, 2010)

Again, this unauthorised program has nothing to do with Srila Prabhupada's teachings:

"We are not fiction writers."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, January 18th, 1976)

Conclusion

ISKCON was established by Srila Prabhupada to be a "Prabhupada-only" movement, with himself as ISKCON's only *diksha* guru, with ISKCON's teachings based only on Srila Prabhupada's books, with ISKCON's standards and rules based only on Srila Prabhupada instructions, and the BBT was similarly established to only publish Srila Prabhupada's books. The removal of Srila Prabhupada as ISKCON's guru began the gradual move away by ISKCON from reliance on Srila Prabhupada, with new gurus, new teachings, new books, and now even the "Bhaktivedanta" Book Trust is beginning the process of moving away from exclusive reliance on "Bhaktivedanta". It has moved so far away from the transcendental, factual teachings given by Srila Prabhupada, that it now wishes to publish the fictional imaginations of anyone and everyone!

Clearly, therefore, today's ISKCON and BBT are not the "Prabhupada-only" entities established by Srila Prabhupada, and it is these entities which the IRM wishes to see revived and re-established.

Lord Krishna turned into cartoon fiction

Followers of Srila Prabhupada accept the pastimes of Lord Krishna, and His incarnations such as Lord Rama, as narrated in the scriptures such as the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* and *Ramayana*, as being literally true historical events, wherein the Supreme Personality of Godhead and His Divine incarnations actually appeared and walked the earth, enacting Their transcendental pastimes. This is in marked contrast to other belief systems which claim that the pastimes and Godhead status of such personalities are merely fables and legends - that is, fictional, figurative and allegorical stories, told specifically for the purpose of conveying moral messages.

Promoting Lord Krishna as fiction

A multi-million dollar animated cartoon series about Lord Krishna and His pastimes, called *Little Krishna* ("LK"), has been produced in the form of thirteen 23 minute episodes, with a DVD version which re-packages those 13 episodes into 3 larger segments. To ensure that the audience are left in no doubt that what they are about to see is fictional, at the beginning of every single episode or DVD segment of *LK*, the following special notice is broadcast:

"The stories and the treatment expressed herein are well and thoroughly researched and are based on 5000 years old fables from India's rich cultural heritage. The Serial is presented here in good faith for viewers enjoyment and entertainment".

We are specifically told in advance that the material which follows is based on fables, rather than reality, presented for the purposes of entertainment. Additionally, the mythological nature of Krishna and His pastimes is reinforced by continually empha-

sizing Krishna's status as a legend throughout the entire series:

a) The title of one of the 3 DVD segments is: "The Legendary warrior".

b) A narration is added throughout the series to remind us that Krishna is legendary, e.g.

Narrator: "Kamsa, the arrogant cruel King of Mathura was petrified of his end at the hands of his angel of death, Little Krishna, the legendary warrior of Vrindavana"

("Fire and Fury", episode 5, ("The Legendary Warrior" in the DVD version))

Narrator: "And so, Little Krishna, the legendary warrior saved His beloved Vrindavana ..." ("Assault of the Lethal Bird", episode 9, ("The Legendary Warrior" in the DVD version))

Srila Prabhupada on fables

Srila Prabhupada states that fables are the allegorical and figurative alternative to the reality of Krishna's literal pastimes:

David Lawrence: "Where, is it the demoness Putana takes Krsna and Krsna sucks her breast?"

Syamasundara: "Should it be taken literally or allegorically?"

Prabhupada: "No, literally, literally."

David Lawrence: "Yeah, literally as a physical fact."

Prabhupada: "Oh yes, oh yes."

David Lawrence: "Now, having said that then, if one goes on logically..."

Prabhupada: "You'll find so many demons like Putana even at the present moment."

David Lawrence: "So one could leap from behind a tree, putting it tritely if you like."

Prabhupada: "The, the *Bhagavatam*, there is nothing... well, there are some figurative use. Just like we speak the story of Aesop's fables. That is for instruction. Just like jackal is talking with a lion. You see? So, there are stories like that."

David Lawrence: "Yes, there are figurative stories."

Prabhupada: "Yes."

(Morning walk, 30/8/1973)

"Factually the path of bhakti-yoga is the path of hearing directly about the pastimes of the Supreme Personality of Godhead (sraavanam kirtanam visnoh [SB 7.5.23]), but those who are not interested in hearing directly about the activities of the Lord, or who cannot understand them, can very effectively hear such stories and fables as this one narrated by Narada Muni. (The allegory of King Puranjana)."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 4.28.65, purport)

"original face, original person, is Krsna. If you decorate Krsna very nicely, then you will be also seen very much decorated. If you... Practically we see. There is no fable. We are offering Krsna nice foodstuff, so we are eating this nice prasadam which we never conceived or dreamed, dreamt in our life."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 18/2/1976)

Srila Prabhupada on Krishna as legend

Similarly, Srila Prabhupada makes it clear that those who do not accept Krishna's activities as real, deride them as being legendary:

"Lifting a mountain at the age of seven years and marrying sixteen thousand wives in the prime of His youth are some of the examples of His infinite energy, but the mudhas, after seeing them or hearing about them, decry them as legendary and take the Lord as one of them."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 2.10.10, purport)

"When they are challenged by Krsna's pastimes, these rascals say, 'It is all fiction; it is all legend. [...] So, God sometimes displays Himself as God and sometimes as a human being,

but the rascal impersonalists dismiss His pastimes as legend or mythology."

(*A Second Chance*)

"When God displays Himself as God, the rascals take it as legend. Just see. They do not believe in the sastras. [...] Krsna's lifting the Govardhana Hill, what, how they interpret it? I know, the Mayavadis, they do not accept. Or 'Krsna is ordinary human being.' The Aryasamajis and others, they take it as legend. But the acaryas, they do not take it as legend. Therefore we have to follow the acaryas."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 13/12/1970)

ISKCON promotes Little Krishna fiction

The producers and promoters of *LK* are as follows:

1) Executive Producer: Madhu Pandit Dasa

Story Research, Concept & Design: Chanchalapati Dasa

"In addition to all these, we have spent Rs.21 crores (\$5 million US Dollars) in producing a world class animation project on Krishna's pastimes in Vrindavan. (Little Krishna, a 13 episode series is being currently broadcast on Nick channel. This is a co-production with Big Animation)."

(An address by Madhu Pandit Dasa, 28/7/2009, press conference)

Madhu Pandit Dasa and Chanchalapati Dasa are the President and Vice President of ISKCON Bangalore. ("Big Animation" is a commercial company that partnered on the production).

2) ISKCON temples all over the world, including in North America and Europe, distribute *LK*.

3) GBC member, Hari Vilasa Das, is a particularly enthusiastic supporter of *LK* who has organised special "Saturday Movie

Nights" with "pizza and popcorn" at his ISKCON Seattle temple, to broadcast *LK*.

Though we can fully understand a commercial company producing a series like *LK*, given Srila Prabhupada's teachings one would not expect any follower of Srila Prabhupada to be party to any depiction of Lord Krishna's pastimes as fables and legends. However, as noted, the *LK* series is co-produced and promoted by ISKCON devotees and temples.

Srila Prabhupada's warnings

Srila Prabhupada also gave the following warnings in relation to filming Krishna's pastimes:

"You should know it that Krsna is not a plaything. These things should strictly not be done. (About trying to have karmis make a movie on Krsna Book). If you do this, then Krsna will become a fairy tale. Please drop this matter!"

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 20/7/1974)

"I appreciate your interest in making the Krishna book film but it is not important for now. [...] I do not care very much for these filmings because by presenting Krishna in this way it makes it something like fantasy. It is better to have people to read my Krishna books what I have written so that they can understand Krishna fully."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 20/8/1974)

"You are going to produce some film. Begin from the first chapter of *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. Why you jump over the Tenth Canto? That is kept very confidential. Unless one understands [...] So Sukadeva Gosvami has arranged in such a way that one should understand what is Krsna by reading these nine cantos. Then he can enter into the Krsna's *lila* and Krsna's birth."

(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, 22/1/77)

"The point is that these drawings should be realistic.

Not that you make Krishna a cartoon character and therefore laughing stock."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 18/8/1971)

Srila Prabhupada has specifically warned against depicting Krishna's pastimes via film and also depicting Krishna as a cartoon character, to prevent Lord Krishna coming across as unreal. Yet, here in *LK*, we have Krishna depicted both in film and as a cartoon character! And for good measure, *LK* has gone the additional step of specifically adding that it is unreal, by saying it is a fable and legend.

Not based on Srila Prabhupada's teachings

As if all the above was not a deviation enough from Srila Prabhupada's teachings, *LK* also depicts many incidents which are not even from Srila Prabhupada's teachings. Using Srila Prabhupada's method that "you take one grain of rice" to check if "the whole rice is cooked" (Lecture, 12/5/1974), we present the following summary of one episode picked randomly from the middle of the series, which is episode 7, titled "The Deadly Donkey" ("The wonderful feats" in the DVD format):

Scene 1: Lord Indra plans to steal "Tal Nectar" from Kamsa's private orchard, which is guarded by the demon, Dhenukasura.

Scene 2: Srimati Radharani and Her two friends, Lalita and Vishaka, are allured by the smell of the Tal fruit and decide to go in search of it, and arriving at the gates of Kamsa's orchard, realise this is the place that Mother Yasoda warned them to stay far away from.

Scene 3: The cows in the care of Krishna and His friends also become seduced by the aroma of the Tal-fruit and go wandering towards it, prompting Krishna and His friends to go running after them, and arriving at Kamsa's orchard, They also set off to secretly

steal some fruit.

Scene 4: Krishna instructs a monkey called Dadiloba, to "keep an eye on Dhenuka", so they can secretly steal the fruit, and Dadiloba fails to distract Dhenukasura after he is alerted to the presence of Krishna and His friends.

Scene 5: Krishna then has a battle with Dhenukasura in the sky, some of which Mother Yasoda witnesses, as she, Nanda Maharaja and other inhabitants of Vrindavana make their way towards Kamsa's orchard, finally being reunited with Krishna there.

None of the above is mentioned by Srila Prabhupada, meaning the entire episode from start to finish contains incidents which are not from Srila Prabhupada's teachings. Similarly, the whole series abounds with incidents never mentioned by Srila Prabhupada.

Making money from Krishna

The following statements detail the purpose behind the *LK* project:

"When we researched quite a few Indian properties that have done well over the period of last few years, it's been one single character that has been known internationally, and beyond the people of Indian origin, was definitely Krishna."

(Ashish S.K., CEO, Big Animation, <http://bit.ly/dxas10>, 2 mins 20 secs)

"Interesting stories of Krishna in his younger days allow the kids to form an immediate association with our legendary character"

(Chanchalapati Das, <http://bit.ly/9KJH71>)

"In fact, Krishna-lila has all the elements of intrigue, drama and emotions which are very much essential to make an exciting animation which would be termed as successful in terms of entertaining as well as in terms of educating about the qualities and nature of this wonderful heritage character,

Krishna."

(Madhu Pandit Das, <http://bit.ly/9elbj6>, 4mins 42 secs)

"Strong concept: The core of the concept is a never-failing combination of heritage and action, garnished and presented in top-class 3D animation style."

Concept Neutrality: Krishna as a concept is widely diffused and is a heritage property with global salience

Alternate channels: Concept lends itself to endless revenue manipulations.

Egs - Video games, Comic Books, Mobisodes, Merchandise, Home entertainment etc

The product truly offers a global landscape of consumption, revenue generation and branding possibilities."

(<http://bit.ly/c3JBMU>)

The aim was to utilise Krishna's "brand value" among consumers as a successful "Indian property" and "legendary heritage character", leading to substantial "revenue generation" possibilities and "endless revenue manipulations". Thus, the main thrust behind the project was commercial, rather than adherence to Srila Prabhupada's teachings, and consequently it is no surprise that Srila Prabhupada's teachings were not adhered to.

Conclusion

We have already documented in previous issues how commercialisation has heavily influenced ISKCON, leading to Srila Prabhupada's standards and teachings being sacrificed in the pursuit of profit. Now ISKCON devotees and temples have become party to producing and promoting a commercial, non-Prabhupada presentation of Krishna and His pastimes.

The spread of commercialism in ISKCON has now extended to Lord Krishna's transcendental pastimes, and we can only wonder what ISKCON will do next.

Ivy League graduate's unexpected awakening



COMING TO
PRABHUPADA

By
**Bhakta
Anthony
Amanfor**

New Jersey,
USA

My first encounter with Srila Prabhupada was when I was 16. At this time I took, or should I say, stole the *Bhagavad-gita As It Is* from my local library in New Jersey. At that time I didn't know what type of book it was. I simply felt the urge to take it. So I did. When I got home I tried but I couldn't understand the book. On the back cover, I saw the picture of a man, the author, staring deep into the heavens with stern and sober eyes. He seemed other-worldly. Furthermore, there were portraits in the book that were a bit science-fiction-like, that seemed quite unearthly and out-of-this-world. With my puzzlement, I leafed through the book. Here and there it spoke about a battle, planets, destinations, elements, and especially it had much to say about the mind and the soul. On almost every other page, I would encounter this bizarre name and its bizarre spelling: "Krsna". Who or what is Krsna?, my inexperienced mind had asked. Tired and fatigued, I gave up reading and tossed the book into my book closet and there it would lie for many, many years to come. Life would go on, but this small episode remained buried deep in my subconscious, as though it had been quite insignificant.

High school came and went, and college passed along too. I graduated from a prestigious Ivy League university and expected to have a great future. In particular I had the ambition to one day number among the greatest writers, and therefore was always

reading and writing. Literature, my all-consuming passion, urged me to plan to write great poems and great epics. Following this order, I took to searching for diverse themes and topics in every way and along every path. Soon, my search would somehow lead me to print out from the internet the *Bhagavad-gita* and some Buddhist texts. The flavor of my writings, I thought, would be enormously improved by the perspective of these Eastern books. By the grace of these books and many others, armed with an itinerary of plots, facts, and wise sayings, I could eventually write the world-changing epics and poems I felt I was destined to write – or so I thought. However, unbeknownst to me and my plans, a higher power would intervene.

While reading the Buddhist texts, I had, or began to have, what is commonly called in transcendence 'an awakening'. For suddenly I felt as though I was being set free from an inconceivable confinement. Put right-side up, if you will. It was then that I realized, without the shadow of a doubt, that we, all living entities, were somehow all connected and could never be separated from one another. Thereafter, I began to imagine a silver current of effulgent rope that passes through the body of every person that I met. An umbilical cord of suffused brightness connecting every living person, every breathing thing. "Is this what is called liberation?" I thought to myself. The more I read, the more I wanted to experience. On the subway home to Newark that evening, I couldn't stop reading. After reading the Buddhist texts, I immediately reached out for the *Bhagavad-gita*, hungry for more of the same. What the Buddhist texts had hinted on was suddenly brought to their brightest conclusions by the *Bhagavad-gita*. All my questions

about life, the world, death and the afterlife, were answered without a tinge of doubt. "Why hadn't I experienced these sensations before?", I lamented.

At home, to my total amazement and with new-found respect for the wonders of the transcendental process, I rediscovered, in my unkempt closet, the long-forgotten copy of the *Bhagavad-gita As It Is* I had stolen in my youth. From then on, things happened very fast. I began to find Srila Prabhupada's books left and right. Bookstores and libraries that I had frequented for many years would suddenly exhume their treasury of Srila Prabhupada's books.

Now here, at last, was philosophy! Here was reason and nectarean delight in a single bound! I was astonished by the simplicity and depth of Srila Prabhupada's writings. They were not only remarkable, they were the evidence of a great God-sent personality, whose words were identical to his very person. Furthermore, I was defeated by the honey-like prose of these books, and maybe also secretly envious! Here was scripture with an infallible philosophy of the highest order. The topic of self-realization has bewildered the philosophers, poets, politicians and many so-called great sages of society in almost every age. However, by grace of his effortless manner of prose, Srila Prabhupada could make an uncomplicated presentation while simultaneously attracting the sensibilities to the message of the Absolute Personality of Godhead, Sri Krishna.

Eager for more of Srila Prabhupada's books, I received on the subway the book *Beyond Birth and Death*, and the address of an ISKCON temple in Manhattan, New York. I went along, looking, more than anything, to buy books from the temple. I bought three cantos of *Srimad-Bhagavatam*

and was invited to the temple programs. The books recommended that we must live in the association of the devotees, and I took it as a sign from Krishna that I should join the temple as a *brahmachari* (celibate monk). However, I was by nature very cautious, and not one to jump hastily into things, and therefore took things slowly. As I was later to discover, *this* hesitation was to be Krishna's arrangement! I began visiting the temple regularly for programs, and at one meeting, someone told me that there was also another group of Krishna devotees who met in Manhattan nearby.

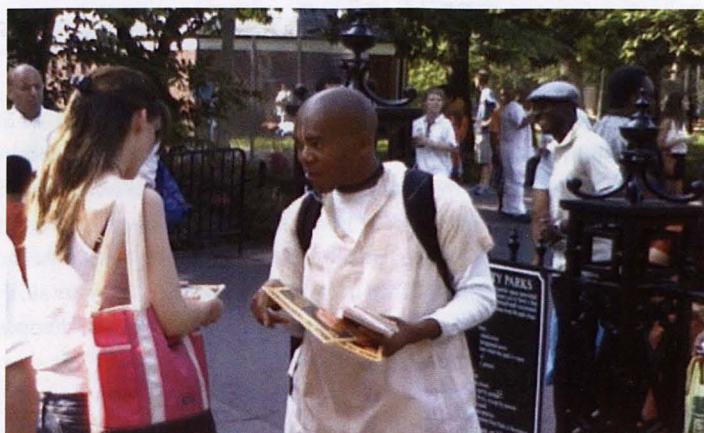
At that time, I was quite eager to be absorbed in as much Krsna conscious activities as I possibly could, and so was happy to go along. When I met the devotees there, I immediately felt at home. There was a simplicity in the air, and I could feel that the people here had the sincerest intentions. Most importantly, I met two exceptionally well-versed devotees, Brahmabhuta Das and his wife Mother Vani Devi Dasi, who were both very compassionate, tolerant, and straightforward in their conviction that Srila Prabhupada is the only initiating spiritual master of ISKCON. They told me that they were part of a movement, the ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM), which was Srila Prabhupada's true movement, and that the "official" ISKCON was no longer representing Srila Prabhupada. And further, I was free to investigate these matters and form my own conclusions.

I became a regular visitor at the IRM meetings, and the programs and *prasadam* were always blissful, and I got to meet many like-minded devotees. However, I would still visit the "official" ISKCON temples in Manhattan, of which there were two, as well as investigate the subject matter

on my own. Soon I began to read *BTPs* and visit the IRM website. The more I read the more I was sure that Krishnakant *Prabhu*, without a doubt, is Krishna-sent. Besides, the IRM's position is never sentimental. Rather, every argument is followed by direct affirmations from ISKCON's initiating guru, Srila Prabhupada. It presents the facts. It presents the quotes supporting the facts. Furthermore, *The Final Order* presents a compelling argument exposing all detractors. There was no contest: Prabhupada hadn't ordered anyone to be guru. What to speak of rubber-stamping a collectivity! Therefore, I could not see how anyone in ISKCON could deny the argument of the IRM.

As stated, I was still attending programs at the official ISKCON temple, and soon I noticed startling changes at the temple, some of which the *BTPs* were already reporting. For instance, Srila Prabhupada's picture had been removed from the temple altar! Also, there were notices here and there in the building advertising yoga courses. Again, I was puzzled. Wasn't this a Hare Krishna temple? Why propagate the mechanical yoga systems? Isn't Krishna Consciousness sufficient in itself? These changes can only mean that the temple isn't completely satisfied with propagating Krishna Consciousness. It also confirmed the position of the IRM condemning these unsanctioned activities.

Another issue that puzzled me at the temple was the retreats. Devotees would go on retreats to chant in isolation. Whatever happened to street *Harinamas* (public chanting), widespread book distribution, and *prasadam* (sanctified food) distribution even? Why would *brahmacharis* desire to want to chant anywhere else than before the lotus feet of the temple Deities, Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Murlidhara? One time I used to see one of the new *brahmacharis* at the temple, after the



BTP and book distribution in New York City

morning prayers, chant before the photo of his GBC-appointed ISKCON guru. I couldn't help but feel that this young *brahmachari* was staking his spiritual salvation on an unqualified and unauthorized person. I also found that no one was either willing or able to defeat the IRM's arguments. No one just seemed to care. What mattered was that they were doing what they wanted to do at that particular time, and not what Srila Prabhupada wanted.

These deviations and the offences that follow them are too numerous to recount. Srila Prabhupada's teachings are watered-down to accommodate the public. The unauthorized successor gurus are authorizing all sorts of nonsense. It's no surprise that they can't even preach straightforward Krishna consciousness. I often heard the gurus and their disciples try and impress a crowd with stories and tales which have no connection to Srila Prabhupada's books. ISKCON is not willing to tell people to immediately surrender to Krishna and forget all other processes. The IRM has fully documented and continues to document these cases. However, the bogus gurus and their supporters are convinced they own the temples, the books, and even the Deities themselves. They ban and intimidate whomever they choose to disagree with. This is a sign of fear. Truth-followers are never intimidated or afraid. For where there is fear and

intimidation, there is the defeated side. Unfortunately ISKCON has become a club of bullied consenters; it is an organization motivated by the fear of losing privileges. The guru-stamping institution is worse than bogus. It is a great offense to Srila Prabhupada. However, we find that the killers of this movement, the so-called cheating gurus and their supporters, don't mind. They have lost sight of everything.

Therefore, the IRM is justified in its attempt to revive ISKCON and bring it back to its true owner, the only *acharya* and initiating spiritual master of the whole movement, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. By doing so, it presents the only solution, that is, reinstating His Divine Grace as the sole initiator in the movement, and reinstating all his instructions, and all of us should help serve to propagate the movement as per his instructions.

As for myself, I have now been doing book distribution for more than a year, and I take the *BTPs* with me just in case I meet ex-devotees, or even anyone who seems very much interested in Krishna consciousness. In addition, I ensure all the books have special stickers warning the readers to not get sucked in by the guru hoax. Grateful for all the knowledge and genuine association that I have received, I look forward to getting more and more involved in the cause of the IRM.

"The IRM presents the facts. It presents the quotes supporting the facts. Furthermore, *The Final Order* presents a compelling argument exposing all detractors. [...] ISKCON bans and intimidates whomever they choose to disagree with. This is a sign of fear."

Indeed, just recently at the New York Ratha Yatra, I joined many other IRM devotees in distributing Srila Prabhupada's books and *BTPs*. I actually met some devotees who I used to visit the ISKCON temples with, and was very happy to distribute *BTPs* to them!

The IRM is defeating tyranny in the realm of thought. A once vibrant, world-wide spiritual movement has been stymied. It is contracting more and more each day. The residents of this afflicted planet are searching for relief from the endless miseries of material entanglement. Only the IRM's effort can save it. In fact, the IRM is making a clear statement. Srila Prabhupada is the sole initiator guru of the movement and hope for humanity in this *Kali-yuga* age. When this fact is realized, and Srila Prabhupada's real teachings are once again established, ISKCON will soar again.

I no longer want to become a great writer. I simply wish to serve the greatest writer, teacher, saint, guru and devotee – His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada – and I thank the IRM for giving me a chance to do this.

Readers are cordially invited to follow Bhakta Anthony's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

Books more important than temples

On page 5 of this issue, we illustrate the move away from the exclusive publishing and distribution of Srila Prabhupada's books by his publishing house the BBT, towards the publication of a variety of literature not authorised by Srila Prabhupada. In addition, on page 11 of this issue, as well as on the back cover of BTP 25, we highlight the minimisation of Srila Prabhupada's books by ISKCON GBC voted-in guru HH Gaura Govinda Swami. And on page 7 of BTP 27 ("Book changes means defeat"), we demonstrate how changing the words in Srila Prabhupada's books has become an essential cheating mechanism for ISKCON's guru hoaxers to sustain their guru hoax. We should, however, not be surprised that Srila Prabhupada's books are today being changed and de-emphasised in favour of other books. After all, if you kick the genuine guru out from his own seat, his teachings no longer matter either – except, of course, when needing to recruit new "disciples"! The following quotes emphasise the importance of adhering rigidly to only Srila Prabhupada's books above all else.

Books more important than temples

"My Guru Maharaja liked the publication of books very nice. He liked publication of books more than construction of Temples."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 15/5/1970)

"My Guru Maharaja asked me that 'If you get some money, you print books.' So there was a private meeting, talking, some of my important Godbrothers also there. It was in Radha-kunda. So Guru Maharaja was speaking to me that 'Since we have got this Bagh Bazaar marble temple, there has been so many dissensions, and everyone thinking who will occupy this room or that room, that room. I wish, therefore, to sell this temple and the marble and print some book.' Yes. So I took up this from his mouth, that he is very fond of books."

(Srila Prabhupada Arrival Address, 20/6/1975)

"[My Guru Maharaj] personally instructed me that books are more important than big temples. At Radha Kunda he told me that since constructing the big marble temple at Bhag Bazar, there have been so many difficulties. Our men are envious over who will live in which room. I think it would be better

to take off all the marbles and sell them and print books. He told me this personally. So I am always emphasizing book distribution. [...] book distribution is the best kirtana."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 24/10/1974)

"You have taken the right view of the importance of my books. Books will always remain. That was the view of my Guru Maharaja, and I also have taken it. Therefore I started my movement with my books. And we shall be able to maintain everything with the sales of the books. The temples will be maintained by the book sales, and if there are no more temples, then the books shall remain."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 11/8/1973)

ISKCON means Srila Prabhupada's books

"This mission has been established simply on the publishing and distribution of my books. So get them translated and published as soon as possible."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 26/7/1975)

Srila Prabhupada's books as good as his personal presence

"There are two types of Bhagavatas, namely the book Bhagavata and the devo-

tee Bhagavata. [...] A devotee Bhagavata is as good as the book Bhagavata because the devotee Bhagavata leads his life in terms of the book Bhagavata and the book Bhagavata is full of information about the Personality of Godhead and His pure devotees, who are also Bhagavatas. Bhagavata book and person are identical."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 1.2.18, purport)

Rascal editors change books

"These rascal editorial [...] It is very serious situation. You write one letter that 'Why you have made so many changes?' And whom to write? Who will care? All rascals are there. Write to Satsvarupa that 'This is the position. They are doing anything and everything at their whim.' The next printing should be again to the original way. [...] So write them immediately that 'The rascal editors, they are doing havoc [...] So they are doing very freely and dangerously.'"

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, 22/6/1977)

Srila Prabhupada's books enough

"We have got enough books to read, these books. If you read our books, in your whole lifetime you cannot finish it. And that is re-

quired to understand Krsna. That is success of life."

(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, 23/4/1976)

"If he... If one takes one book, at least one day he'll read it: 'Let me see what is this book I have purchased the other day.' And if he reads one line his life will be successful, if he reads one line only, carefully. This is such literature."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 5/2/1975)

Books more important than death

"Although I am practically on the path of death, still I cannot forget about my publications. I wish that if I live or die you should take very serious care for my publications."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 10/6/1967)

"When I was alone there were three volumes published but during the last two years I could not publish a single volume more. It is a great defeat. If I have one or two sincere souls like you and if we can make more publications, then our mission will be a great success. I am prepared to sit down underneath a tree with one sincere soul and in such activity I shall be free from all diseases."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 11/10/1967)

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *diksha* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *diksha* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.



Readers' questions and challenges

"Please use your energy in spreading Krishna consciousness all over the world instead of distributing such nonsense. It will be much better for you to publish magazines which attract people towards Krishna and not your envious arguments against the International Society for Krishna Consciousness."

- Sacikumar Das, Hessen, Germany

Editor replies:

We are spreading the truth about Srila Prabhupada, namely that he is the bona fide spiritual master one must surrender to, for, without knowing this, it is not possible to practise Krishna consciousness. How can you call the truth about Srila Prabhupada "nonsense"? That statement itself is nonsense!

Actually, it is truly amazing that we need to spread this truth to begin with, for we only know about Krishna, Vedic literature, *kirtan*, *prasadam*, *Harinama*, Deity worship etc. because of Srila Prabhupada. We sing to him every morning that he is our spiritual master who initiates us with *divya-jnana*, or transcendental knowledge. We are supposed to distribute only his books in order to deliver this transcendental knowledge to humanity at large. Yet despite Srila Prabhupada being the centre of everything we do, we have decided to remove him from the picture and replace him with personalities who have simply stolen his clothes!

So our arguments against the International Society for Krishna Consciousness are not "envious" as you wrongly claim, but are simply stating the truth. Rather, the actual envy comes from these aforementioned imposters who have hijacked Srila Prabhupada's legacy wholesale - his position, his worship, his assets, his disciples, and ultimately his movement, ISKCON.

"I am a member of ISKCON and happened to come across a magazine of yours a year ago and I'm totally shocked. Is this really true?"

- Bhaktin Soobana, Sungai Petani, Malaysia

Editor replies:

Yes, it is all true, as documented in every issue of *BTP*. You can read and check for yourself when you receive the magazines from us. You can also get more evidence from our website: www.iskconirm.com.

The biggest undeniable truths are:

1) The GBC publicly confessed to hoaxing the entire ISKCON movement from 1977 to 1986:

"By the influence of maya, illusion, a different idea soon evolved that Srila Prabhupada had appointed eleven 'pure devotees' to serve as the only gurus after him... This zonal guru system, as it came to be called, prevailed in ISKCON for about ten years, until its falseness became clear... In 1986, ISKCON's Governing Body Commission formally dismantled the system."

(*'An Apology'*, *Back to Godhead* #25-01, 1991)

2) The GBC privately confessed to hoaxing the entire ISKCON movement from 1987 onwards:

"Is this an outright fabrication or not? That Srila Prabhupada 'personally detailed the procedure for increasing the number of initiating guru[s]' is something we can only wish. Or falsely tell the Society he did."

(ISKCON GBC voted-in guru HH Jayadvaita Swami, email to the GBC, December 13th, 2003)

3) Srila Prabhupada issued a directive to all GBC members on July 9th, 1977, establishing himself as the only guru in ISKCON via an initiation system using officiating priests known as *ritviks*.

"I do not want to receive your words. They are coming from a spiritual position which is not pure because it is not respectful of the Brahma Madhava Gaudiya Sampradaya disciplic succession to which belongs [...] Gaur Govinda Maharaja, etc."

- Vraja-Vilasini Dasi (translated from French)

Editor replies:

You have stated that ISKCON guru **HH Gaur Govinda Swami** ("GGS") is a member of the disciplic succession. However, GGS does not even preach the same philosophy as Srila Prabhupada. For example, GGS states that:

1) Srila Prabhupada's tapes are useless for acquiring spiritual knowledge:

"Sabda-brahma* will never descend through a tape."

(GGS, 'Q&A', *The Worship of Sri Guru*)

* Transcendental sound vibration.

2) Srila Prabhupada's books and those of the previous *acharyas* are useless for acquiring spiritual knowledge:

"You may say, 'Oh I have read their books; I have their association.' That won't help you [...] You cannot understand what they have said merely by reading their books."

(GGS, *The Process of Inquiry*, chapter 6)

3) Srila Prabhupada's philosophy is incomplete and limited by time, while GGS is bringing eternal, higher philosophy:

"Similarly, you cannot understand why Prabhupada said what he did. *Tat-kalika*, at that time it was needed. But not for all time. He was laying the foundation. [...] So I have taken up this task: now the time has come we'll teach all this higher philosophy. Prabhupada left it in a seed form. [...] He did what was needed for them at that particular time."

(GGS, *My Revered Spiritual Master*, chapter 12).

"Neither the GBC nor the IRM seems to have understood that instead of fighting each other, both parties should sit down together [...] There may be mistakes in the GBC, but the IRM has its errors, too, for the very reason that it does not go on sankirtan on a large scale but instead wastes its time by criticizing the GBC. [...] you're getting off the track [...] concentrate on the essence, which gets lost due to the fighting between GBC and IRM!"

- Bhakta Hennes (translated from German)

Editor replies:

You have written criticising where you believe the IRM is wrong:

1) That we have not understood that we should be able to discuss instead of fighting.

2) That we have errors, such as not going on *sankirtana* on a large scale.

3) That we waste our time criticising the GBC.

4) That we are getting off track.

5) That due to our fighting the essence is being lost.

Clearly you believe it is bona fide to criticise others and point out their mistakes, rather than only going out on *sankirtana*. So we are simply doing the same. It is not that such activity can only become wrong when the IRM does it. We may not be perfect in our practice of Krishna Consciousness, but please understand that we are trying to highlight egregious errors by the acting GBC in an effort to reform Srila Prabhupada's mission.

The mission of the IRM is directed specifically at ISKCON and not the masses, because no one else apart from the IRM is working to assist ISKCON return back to Srila Prabhupada's teachings. And as long as ISKCON continues deviating, our mission will continue.

We welcome all correspondence.

Email us: irm@iskconirm.com

The GBC's supreme hypocrisy - Part 1

The GBC takes two diametrically opposite positions depending on which guru they are dealing with (we present more evidence of this technique of simultaneously holding two contradictory positions on page 13). When fending off rival guru challengers from outside ISKCON, in particular HH Narayana Maharaja ("NM") from the Gaudiya Matha, the GBC urge us to take shelter of Srila Prabhupada, with his physical absence not being a handicap. However, when it comes to the necessity of accepting one of ISKCON's "living gurus", then the GBC claims that it is not sufficient to take shelter of Srila Prabhupada as he is physically absent!

The GBC's recent paper responding to NM's claims that Srila Prabhupada had instructed him in an October 1977 conversation to guide ISKCON (claims incidentally which the IRM debunked nearly 10 years ago (<http://bit.ly/96s0IU>), and which the GBC have only now woken up to address), offers more evidence of the GBC's hypocrisy. All quotes in the paneled boxes will be taken from this paper, which was issued by the GBC Executive Committee in March 2010.

The GBC's absent evidence

"It needs to be carefully noted, however, that above and beyond all this, we must also give due consideration to what Srila Prabhupada did not say. At no time did he convey to his directly trained leaders the directions Narayana Maharaja claims that Prabhupada gave him."

Similarly at no time did Srila Prabhupada state that:

a) The *ritvik* system of initiation set up by him for ISKCON on July 9th, 1977, was to be disbanded 4 months later on his departure.

b) Those appointed as *ritviks*

were to magically metamorphise into *diksha* gurus.

c) The GBC has the authority to create *diksha* gurus by voting them in.

d) The GBC was to change how ISKCON was being run and managed during Srila Prabhupada's presence, or that only the system of initiations was to change.

e) That ISKCON could be based on secularisation, commercialisation and Hinduisation.

Thus, ISKCON's whole existence today is based on what Srila Prabhupada did not say.

Incompatible philosophy

"Indeed, the directions Narayana Maharaja claims to have received are more than merely absent from the record: they are incompatible with directions and guidelines Prabhupada himself had instilled in his leaders."

Similarly:

a) The concoction that on May 28th, 1977, Srila Prabhupada was authorising 11 *ritviks* to become "regular" *diksha* gurus is incompatible with the warning he gave just the day before against his disciples attempting to become *diksha* gurus:

Bhavananda: "There will be men, I know. There will be men who want to try and pose themselves as guru."

Tamala Krsna: "That was going on many years ago. Your Godbrothers were thinking like that. Madhava Maharaja..."

Bhavananda: "Oh, yes. Oh, ready to jump."

Srila Prabhupada: "Very strong management required and vigilant observation."

(Conversation, May 27th, 1977)

b) The concoction that Srila

Prabhupada was authorising all his disciples to become *diksha* guru successors is incompatible with the *ritvik* system of initiation he actually did authorise for ISKCON.

c) That *parampara diksha* gurus are subject to discipline by a management body, and that they can also fall down into gross sense gratification and preaching philosophy against the teachings of Srila Prabhupada, is incompatible with Srila Prabhupada's teachings on *guru-tattva*.

And so on – please see all previous *BTP* issues and the IRM's position papers! (www.iskconirm.com)

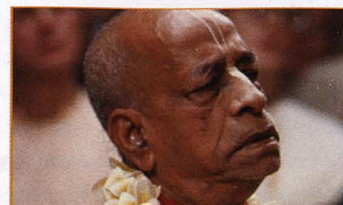
Final instructions

"Prabhupada offered us some parting directions early in his final year:

'Stick to our principle, and see our GBC is very alert. Then everything will go on, even I am not present. Do that. That is my request. Whatever little I have taught you, follow that, and nobody will be aggrieved. No maya will touch you. Now Krsna has given us, and there will be no scarcity of money. You print book and sell. So everything is there. We have got good shelter all over the world. We have got income. You stick to our principles, follow the. . . Even if I die suddenly, you'll be able to manage. That's all.'

(Room conversation, Bombay, April 22, 1977)."

The GBC admits that the above constitutes "parting" directions, and that everything could easily be managed from that point on, even if Srila Prabhupada departed, simply by continuing in the same way, without any change. This is the same "no change" philosophy given by the IRM (<http://bit.ly/bv6f7f>).



Srila Prabhupada:
A pawn in the GBC's guru games

Unreliable witness

The GBC rejects NM's recollections because they have:

"compared it carefully with the record of the events."

1) The GBC are more than happy to challenge NM's recollections when it threatens their position, but they were more than happy to blindly accept his recollections in the *ISKCON Journal* 1990 interview where he gave an account, without any evidence, regarding what Srila Prabhupada has supposedly told him about *ritviks*. So if NM says something which supports the GBC's agenda, he can be trusted blindly, otherwise the GBC suddenly discover the need for "evidence"!

2) And we have also compared what the GBC claim in regards to their unauthorised guru system, and other teachings, with the "record of events", and again there is no match!

Conclusion

"Clearly, the IRM would be disloyal to Srila Prabhupada himself were we to accept the GBC's assertions about their position in relation to Prabhupada's disciples and ISKCON. We must reject those assertions."

The above is the conclusion from the GBC paper, with "GBC" and "NM" simply interchanged with "IRM" and "GBC"! There is no better way to highlight the GBC's supreme hypocrisy and how such hypocrisy can be used to easily defeat their own unauthorised philosophies.



Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

Maximum worship, minimum work

In the BTP 24 article "The Divinity Delusion", we cited ISKCON GBC voted-in guru HH Bhakti Vikash Swami ("BVKS") claiming he should be worshipped as good as God almighty simply because, like any new *bhakta* (devotee) who joins ISKCON, he will tell people to follow Srila Prabhupada:

"My Vyasa-puja [...] So you may think, well, what is my qualification to accept the honour and affection that you are offering to me [...] Well, that is my qualification, that if I can glorify Prabhupada then that's the qualification ...actually, the er... I'm not qualified, intrinsically, but qualified because I can point, 'here is Prabhupada, and follow his instructions, and ask you to have faith in what Srila Prabhupada has given.' (BVKS, "Vyasa-Puja" Lecture, Tirupati, January 5th, 2008)

In fact, this philosophy of "act like a *bhakta*, get worshipped as a guru" was preached nearly two decades prior by the man responsible for "The Great Guru Hoax, Part 2" (the current GBC guru system), **HG Ravindra Svarupa Das** ("RSD"). RSD claimed that Srila Prabhupada actually delivers *divya-jnana* (transcendental knowledge), and one can become a GBC-elected successor guru simply by claiming the credit for delivering this *divya-jnana* oneself:

"For example a spiritual master may instruct a disciple, 'Make sure you read Srila Prabhupada's books for two hours every day...' - then he's giving *divya-jnana*. He can do it this way. He need not be able to write those books, but if he keep his students reading the books, and he makes sure they understand what they read, then he's giving *divya-jnana*."

(Ravindra Svarupa Das, Vaisnava Institute for Higher Education, January 21st, 1990,

Vrindavan, published in *ISKCON Journal*, 1990).

An ISKCON guru is now no different to any *bhakta* who distributes books.

ISKCON's guru hoaxers are happy to let Srila Prabhupada do all the hard work of giving *divya-jnana* and delivering disciples, while they take all the worship and credit – and they openly admit it!

ISKCON leader set in concrete

ISKCON UK congregational preaching director **HG Kripamoya Das** ("KMD") has again argued that due to the need for **"... rebuke, correction, and ongoing guidance"**, the *diksha*, or initiating, guru must be: **"in Srila Prabhupada's own words: 'concrete,' 'appearing before the physical senses of the disciple,' and someone to whom the disciple can surrender in person."** (both quotes from *The Vaishnava Voice*, April 4th, 2010)

As we have documented in previous issues of BTP, KMD continues to falsely attribute to Srila Prabhupada his philosophical misconception that the guru must be physically present before the disciple in order to act as the disciple's guru. Let us examine the first quotation KMD alludes to:

"Not that in air you make a spiritual master. You make a spiritual master concrete." (Srila Prabhupada Conversation, September 23rd, 1969)

Here all Srila Prabhupada is saying is that you cannot fabricate a spiritual master out of the air. Is KMD arguing that Srila Prabhupada is a fabrication? If so, he has been the disciple of an imaginary guru for the past 33 years!

Regarding the guru "appearing before the physical senses of the disciple", KMD later confessed:

"I will admit to being unable to find the specific quote I wanted." (HG Kripamoya Das, June 10th, 2010)

As for the need for "rebuke", "correction" and "ongoing guidance", KMD contradicts himself, since he has admitted that he himself was never rebuked, corrected or guided by Srila Prabhupada when he was physically present!

"you (Srila Prabhupada) replied 'Jaya' [...] That was the only word you said to me directly [...] One word spoken thirty years previously".

(HG Kripamoya Das, *Vyasa-Puja* offering to Srila Prabhupada, 2007)

Same quote, opposite conclusion

1) GBC 1998: Srila Prabhupada is NOT the current link

Below, while attempting to refute the IRM's *The Final Order* position paper, the GBC claim that Srila Prabhupada stating we must accept the "immediate next *acharya*" means that Srila Prabhupada is a previous *acharya* (guru), and we must accept a successor GBC-elected guru:

"[...] surrendering to a living bona-fide spiritual master, is imperative to the proper understanding of Vedic knowledge. This point is made clear in the following quote:

"[...] You cannot imagine what my spiritual master said. Or even if you read some books, you cannot understand unless you understand it from me. This is called parampara system. You cannot jump over to the superior guru, neglecting the next *acharya*, immediate next *acharya*." (Srila Prabhupada Lecture, December 8th, 1973)

[...] He clearly explains the principal of *parampara*, and even explicitly states that simply to read books is not enough (a corner stone of *ritvik*-theory), but rather the disciple must understand everything through his own spiritual master, and not attempt to independently understand the

previous *acharyas*."

(*Prabhupada's Order*, Ministry for the Protection of ISKCON, GBC 1998)

2) GBC 2000: Srila Prabhupada IS the current link

However, just 2 years later, the GBC claimed (correctly) that Srila Prabhupada stating we must accept the "immediate next *acharya*" means that Srila Prabhupada is the current *acharya*, not a previous *acharya*:

"Srila Prabhupada said in a *Srimad-Bhagavatam* lecture given in Los Angeles on December 8, 1973:

"You cannot imagine what my spiritual master said. Or even if you read some books, you cannot understand unless you understand it from me. This is called parampara system. You cannot jump over to the superior guru, neglecting the next *acharya*, immediate next *acharya*."

This would mean that in answering any difficult question, where there are apparent contradictions that cannot be easily resolved, our primary resource should be the words of Srila Prabhupada — our "immediate next *acharya*." [...] If we were capable of independently absorbing *sastra*, why did Srila Prabhupada write purports to all of his translations? So the first resource should be Srila Prabhupada's words." (Drutakarma Das, GBC *Sastric Advisory Council* member, *The Origin of the Jiva*, 2000)

Thus, depending on their agenda, and which conclusion they seek to prove, the GBC have no problem in shamelessly turning Srila Prabhupada's teachings on their head - claiming he is not the "next immediate *acharya*" when it comes to preserving their own illegal status as self-appointed successor hoaxer gurus, but claiming the exact opposite when arguing a different issue.

Disorder over the non-existent order

We review here the different claims given by the guru hoaxers historically to justify why they are entitled to replace Srila Prabhupada as the *diksha* guru of ISKCON, noting that over the years they have invented at least 5 types of different “orders” to try and justify their guru hoax.

1. The *ritvik* order

As we have documented extensively in previous issues, initially, following Srila Prabhupada’s disappearance in 1977, it was claimed that Srila Prabhupada had given a “*ritvik-guru*” order, where 11 persons would become successor gurus, due to being appointed as *ritviks*. Subsequently, it was admitted by the GBC that the guru system which resulted from this “*ritvik-guru*” order was a hoax, which we call “The Great Guru Hoax, Part 1.”

2. The general order

The GBC then switched tack, and launched “The Great Guru Hoax, Part 2”, by claiming that rather than an order given only for 11 persons to be successor gurus, Srila Prabhupada had actually authorised every single one of his disciples to become guru, simply by repeating Lord Chaitanya’s order to “become guru” from Caitanya-caritamṛta, *Madhya-Lila*, 7:128 (“*amara ajanya guru hana*”). However, the guru hoaxers themselves have accepted the IRM’s position that this order does not actually authorise *diksha* guru successors:

“Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Krishna as they are given in *Bhagavad Gita* and *Srimad Bhagavatam*. In this way, become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land.” (*Madhya Lila*, 7:128). These statements by Srila Prabhupada and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu certainly cannot be applied to the first mean-

ing of *acharya* as given above. NEITHER CAN IT BE APPLIED TO THE THIRD MEANING (one who INITIATES), since Srila Prabhupada did in fact directly appoint 11 *acharyas* as will clearly be shown.”

(HH Tamal Krishna Goswami, late guru and GBC, Letter to Upananda Das, 13/12/1978)

“Thus the “four cases” you mentioned (involving the “become guru” order) would not apply to such a primary guru-disciple relationship, on the level of *siksha* or *diksha*.”

(HH Hridayananda Das Goswami, guru and GBC Emeritus, August 13th, 1997. The full exchange can be viewed at:

www.iskconirm.com/hrdayananda_master_of_evasion.htm)

“Srila Prabhupada writes, “It is best not to accept any disciples.” (Cc. *Madhya* 7.130, purport). Based on this warning it could be assumed that the words “*guru hana*” means become a *siksa-guru*. In the first line of Cc. *Madhya* 7.128, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu says whomever you meet; tell them about Krishna... this also refers to *siksha*.”

(His Holiness Partha Sarathi Das Goswami, ISKCON GBC voted-in guru, <http://www.psdgoswami.com/joss56.htm>, archived February 23rd, 2010)

3. The “waiting” order

With the failure of the “general order” approach, some guru hoaxers have taken shelter in certain quotes, wherein they claim Srila Prabhupada is clearly speaking of authorising some *diksha* guru successors in the future. Below are some examples of these quotes:

“Don’t become premature acharya. First of all follow the orders of acharya, and you become mature. Then it is better to become acharya. Because we are interested in preparing acharya, but the etiquette is at least for the period the guru is present, one should not become acharya.”

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, April 6th, 1975)

“I shall choose some guru. I shall say, “Now you become acharya. You become authorized.” I am waiting for that. You become all acharya. I retire completely. But the training must be complete.”

(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, April 22nd, 1977)

“When I order you become guru he becomes regular guru. That’s all. He becomes disciple of my disciple.”

(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, May 28th, 1977)

1) This approach completely contradicts the “general order” approach, for having told us that Srila Prabhupada had already authorised everyone to be *diksha* guru successor, we are told that actually Srila Prabhupada still needed to personally authorise such gurus.

2) More importantly, it can easily be tested if the above quotes are actually evidence of Srila Prabhupada stating he will be authorising *diksha* guru successors, by simply seeing if Srila Prabhupada actually did this! Yet, 33 years on, no one to date has presented the subsequent action of Srila Prabhupada authorising these *diksha* gurus, which he had supposedly announced earlier. As noted, initially, it was falsely claimed that the “*ritvik-guru*” order was this subsequent *diksha* guru authorisation.

4. The secret order

With the failure of 3 previous approaches to justify guru succession, and with no “guru order” appearing out of the woodwork, some guru hoaxers, in desperation, have simply invented their own guru orders. Thus having happily participated with the original “hoax order” in 1978, and seen its failure, some hoaxers have mysteriously “remembered” many years later that Srila Prabhupada had actually personally ordered them to be *dik-*

sha guru successors! And further, this order was given in “secret” or “whispered”, and this is why no one else in ISKCON knew of the existence of these orders. Indeed, so secret were these orders, that as stated, even the recipients did not know of the existence of these orders until they were magically “unlocked” in their memories many years later!

5. The assumed order

Given the abject failure over 33 years to try to drum up a guru succession order from Srila Prabhupada, the GBC’s latest approach is to simply throw in the towel, and finally accept that such an explicit order does not actually exist. Rather, in lieu of such an order from Srila Prabhupada, as we documented in the BTP 17 article “GBC guru bombshell”, the GBC now simply assumes that Srila Prabhupada must have somehow “implicitly intended” *diksha* guru successors!

Conclusion

In addition to ISKCON’s current guru system not having any order from Srila Prabhupada to justify its existence, the GBC’s official “brain”, the “Sastric Advisory Council” (SAC), has said that the process by which it does authorise gurus, via voting them in, is not based on “guru, *sadhu* and *sastra*”:

“Our present system has institutionalized a process of senior devotees voting or offering no-objection to prospective gurus. But we do not find that this institutionalized blessing-seeking process is mentioned by guru, *sadhu* or *sastra* as the way that one is authorized to become a guru.”

(*Balancing the roles of the GBC and the disciple in Guru selection*, SAC)

So from every angle, ISKCON’s current guru system is basically a big unauthorised hoax!

The illusion of freedom - Part 2

In the *BTP* 27 article "The illusion of freedom", we showed via a case study of ISKCON GBC guru hoaxer HH Sivarama Swami, how on the one hand ISKCON preaches the importance of education, independent thinking and "spiritual science" based on Srila Prabhupada's teachings, in order to engender a sense of intellectual freedom, but on the other hand ruthlessly enforces censorship, sanctions and excommunication on those who preach that Srila Prabhupada is the guru of ISKCON based on this very same "spiritual science". Thus such "freedom" is indeed an illusion.

Freedom of speech

Another classic example of this illusion emerged recently with ISKCON losing a legal case in the state of California, and its Director of Communications lamenting the resultant chilling effect on freedom of speech that the Court's ruling may have:

"We feel that the court erred in departing from the historical understanding of protected speech, producing an inconsistent view of the First Amendment that may have a chilling effect on freedom of speech generally," he said in a statement issued in Los Angeles."

(Anuttama Das, ISKCON Director of Communications, quoted in 'Barred from Airport, Hare Krishnas to spread message elsewhere' article, March 30th, 2010)

The case revolved around the right for ISKCON to solicit donations at LAX Airport in Los Angeles. The irony of this will not be lost on our regular readers, who may recall one letter we received from a devotee named Urvasi Devi Dasi, published in *BTP* 15, where she complained that distributing *BTPs* at the public ISKCON Rathayatra festival was provocative, and that we should organise our own festi-

vals and distribute there instead. We replied as follows:

"Even if our actions do provoke others, that cannot be justification for us not continuing. Just like many people do not like us distributing Srila Prabhupada's books in airports either. Should we also go and have "our own airports" in that case?! According to your twisted logic if devotees get attacked by fundamentalist Christians whilst distributing books, it was their fault!"

Our comment about being attacked while distributing books was made in reference to IRM devotees being physically attacked by ISKCON members, including ISKCON GBC guru hoaxer Ravindra Svarupa Das (see picture above), which was captured on film and is viewable from the IRM homepage (www.iskconirm.com).

Afraid of the devotees

Other examples of ISKCON's illusion of freedom include another ISKCON guru hoaxer, HH Indradyumna Swami ("IDS"), pompously citing former U.S. President John F. Kennedy in his "Diary of a Travelling Preacher" that:

"A nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood of ideas in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

to protest those trying to thwart ISKCON in Poland.

But, when it comes to the IRM, IDS does not believe that our ideas should be shown the same openness:

"So, if you get something on e-mail, you say, "My guru has not fallen. [...] So you just take this letter and throw it in a window." (IDS, "Attack on ISKCON" Lecture, Moscow, 28/11/1998)

"May I ask a question: are you into to Ritvik philosophy? [...] I don't mind replying to strengthen your faith in an existing process, but I would be hesitant to gradually enter into a debate if you have any leanings towards Ritvik."

(IDS E-mail to inquiry about *ritvik* philosophy, 28/6/2005)

Force over philosophy

A more fanatical example of this destructive cult-like response to philosophical challenges to ISKCON's guru system, while paying lip service to the need for intellectual freedom and integrity, is from GBC apologist, member of ISKCON's "Sastric Advisory Council", and ISKCON author **Drutakarma Das** ("DKD"), who complained in a book he co-authored on fossilised bones that:

"there exists in the scientific community a knowledge filter that screens out unwelcome evidence [...] In addition to the general process of knowledge filtration, there also appear to be cases of more direct suppression."

(Drutakarma Das, 'Introduction and Acknowledgements', March 26th, 1994, *The Hidden History of the Human Race*)

But when it comes to evidence presented by the IRM that clearly shows that Srila Prabhupada did not appoint any guru successors, DKD's response is that force should be chosen over philosophy:

"In every way possible, this offensive and concocted infection should be removed from ISKCON's body. It is a disease and it needs to be treated with strong medicine. [...] Absolutely rejecting the *ritvik* heresy and imposing sanctions on those who try to promote it within ISKCON is the most merciful



Ravindra Svarupa Das:
GBC guru filmed attacking
IRM devotees

thing that ISKCON can do for these misguided people."

(DKD, 'Some Thoughts on the *Ritvik* Heresy' (No. 1), September 1998)

"ISKCON needs to institute a thorough program of *ritvik* cleansing."

(DKD, 'Some Thoughts on the *Ritvik* Heresy' (No. 2), September 1998)

"I advocate kicking them (*ritviks*) out right away"

(DKD, 'Krishnakant Desai, All Bluff and No Stuff', November 1998)

Clearly, when it comes to the IRM's indisputable evidence of Srila Prabhupada never having authorised guru successors, the ISKCON GBC apologists don't even bother with the more subtle scientific techniques of "knowledge filtration", preferring instead an all-out Nazi-style propaganda war, replete with references to "infection", "disease" and "cleansing". And yet, in true Orwellian doublethink style, just as and when it suits their agenda, they will also agree with the IRM that Srila Prabhupada is the current guru as well! (Please see the *QNN* item "Same quote, opposite conclusion" on page 13).

Conclusion

There is an ancient Chinese proverb that says: "He who clenches fist has already lost the argument." ISKCON, therefore, has lost its argument. In addition, ISKCON is "afraid of its people" (as IDS above quotes JFK), but pretends that it is a scholarly, philosophical movement whose members are being trained to preach.

The GBC's supreme hypocrisy – Part 2

Below we see one ISKCON GBC voted-in guru, **HH Gour Govinda Swami** ("GGS"), reply to a direct question about whether he had received specific authorisation from Srila Prabhupada to initiate disciples for himself (and thereby act as a successor to Srila Prabhupada):

Devotee 2: "Do you have a letter from Prabhupada saying he wanted you to initiate disciples?"

Gour Govinda Swami: "Yes. He told me here, in that room where Prabhupada stayed in 1977. Prabhupada threw all the devotees out, called me in, and whispered in my ear, "Gour Govinda, this will be one of the best centres in ISKCON. Stay here. You should accept disciples, otherwise how will you manage?" I kept that in my heart until the first GBC meeting when they were selecting gurus. When I told them Prabhupada's instructions, they wanted proof. So I shared the letter where Prabhupada wrote, "...under your leadership..." Still, they would not permit me. I had to fight." (*Darshan*, Bhubaneswar, April 1989, published in *My Revered Spiritual Master*, chapter 7, p.58).

Whisper rejected - proof required

1. The GBC did not find GGS's claim of a secret whisper believable. They wanted hard evidence of this alleged authorisation.
2. As "proof" of this alleged authorisation, GGS then presented the GBC with a letter he received from Srila Prabhupada's secretary while he (GGS) was still a *brahmachari* disciple. The letter stated:

"At the same time there you can invite the local people and speak our philosophy by explaining the Purports of Srila Prabhupada's books in Oriya Language; and gradually the local people will join. In this way we can develop a nice center in Orissa under your leadership. The idea is that the Hindi translating work will go on, the teaching of Hindi to the foreigners will go on, and at the same time we can open a center in Orissa under your leadership. This is Srila Prabhupada's idea, and if you like it, you can come down to Mayapur, and we shall do the needful".

(Letter from Brahmananda Swami [Personal Secretary] on behalf of Srila Prabhupada to Gour Gopalananda Das, October 7th, 1974. Approved "ACBS" [signature])

3. Seeing that the letter simply stated that an ISKCON centre would be opened "under the leadership" of GGS, with no mention of him being a guru, the GBC rejected GGS's claim of being "authorised" and did not permit him to join their guru club.

GBC reject becomes GBC-appointed saint

4. Having initially rejected GGS as a guru, due to GGS not being authorised by Srila Prabhupada, the GBC later gave in and "empowered" GGS to guru status and later sainthood with the following resolutions:

"Gaura Govinda Swami is empowered to begin giving *Diksa* initiations, pending the approval of a 3-man committee appointed by the GBC Body." (GBC Resolution, February 28th, 1985).

"WHEREAS HH Gour Govinda Maharaja was a great devotee of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada [...] THEREFORE it is resolved that the disappearance day of HH Gour Govinda Maharaja be observed on the ISKCON GBC and BBT Calendar every year." (GBC Resolution 704, 1996)

Hypocrisy of the GBC

The above series of events simply highlights the sheer hypocrisy of the GBC in that they initially refused to appoint GGS as a guru due to his not being authorised by Srila Prabhupada, but later, due to political expediency, they were happy to "empower" him (and many dozen others) to guru status, even though the same lack of authorisation remained.

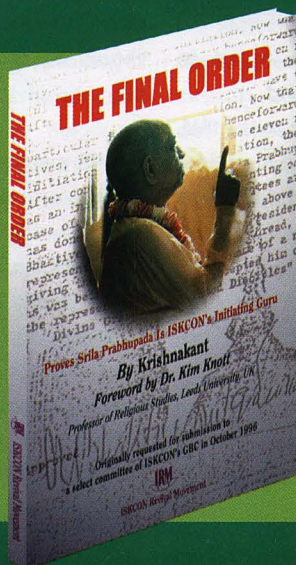
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From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK